

## Nurse Licensure Compact Facts

- A nurse must legally reside in an NLC state to be eligible for issuance of a multistate license. In order to obtain a compact license, one must declare a compact state as the primary state of residency and hold a nursing license in good standing. There is not a separate application for obtaining a multistate license.
- A nurse must hold a separate license in each noncompact state where practice privileges are desired.
- While under disciplinary action, multistate privileges may be removed and the nurse's practice may be restricted to the home state.
- The NCLEX® can be taken in any jurisdiction. However, graduates applying for a license, who legally reside in a compact state (the home state) can only apply to their home state board of nursing. This means that the applicant cannot apply for a compact license in a compact state other than the one in which he/she legally resides.
- A nurse whose primary state of residence is a non-compact state is not eligible for a compact license.
- Upon being issued a compact (multistate) license, any additional active compact state licenses held are inactivated because a nurse can only hold one multistate license.
- A nurse who declares a noncompact state as the primary state of residence will be issued a single-state license

### Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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# NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT



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The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) allows a registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN) to have one multi-state license in a primary state of residence (the home state) and to practice in other compact states (remote states), while subject to each state's practice laws and discipline. The NLC allows a nurse to practice both physically and electronically across state lines unless the nurse is under discipline or restriction. Advanced practice nurses are not included in this compact. APNs must apply in each state in which they practice, unless exempted when employed in a federal facility.

## WHICH STATES HAVE ENACTED THE COMPACT?

Individuals may verify the current states involved at [www.arsbn.org](http://www.arsbn.org). Each year additional states pass legislation to enact the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

## HOW DOES THE COMPACT AFFECT NURSES IN ARKANSAS?

Nurses who reside in Arkansas and hold an Arkansas RN or LPN license to practice will no longer have to obtain a nursing license to work in any of the compact states. They will be able to practice in any of the compact states on the license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. Only when RNs and LPNs move their permanent residence to one of the other compact states will they be required to apply for and obtain the other state's nursing license. RNs and LPNs may work for 30 days on their nursing license after moving from one compact state to another.

## HOW IS A PRIMARY RESIDENCE DETERMINED?

The sources used to determine primary residence may include a driver's license, federal income tax return, voter registration or a sworn affidavit declaring primary residence.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I MOVE TO A NON-COMPACT STATE OR I DECIDE TO WORK IN A NON-COMPACT STATE?

The nurse is required to obtain a license in the non-compact state prior to going to work there, whether or not the nurse moves to the compact state. A nurse must hold a separate license in each non-compact state where practice privileges are desired.

## HOW WILL MY EMPLOYER VERIFY MY LICENSE?

Employers can verify the license status on the ASBN Registry at [www.arsbn.org](http://www.arsbn.org). The ASBN Registry is considered primary source verification. The Registry is updated daily and reflects the most up-to-date information available. The Registry can be searched by name or license number and searching is free of charge.

## DOES THE COMPACT ALTER THE BOARD'S DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES?

Boards of Nursing will continue to apply the same administrative and due process procedures for imposing discipline as they have always done. The Board has more timely and efficient access to information regarding the disciplinary history of nurses through a coordinated licensure information systems called NURSUS. Complaints may be addressed by the state in which the violation occurs or by the state of licensure. Only the home state can take action against the nurse's license. Compact states in which the nurse has the privilege to practice may order the nurse to "cease and desist" practicing in that state. However, that does not change every state's duty to afford a nurse adequate due process.

